

THE INFLUENCE OF SUPPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES ON DIGESTION AND PERFORMANCE OF BEEF CATTLE BEING FED TALL FESCUE STRAW

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This research will be further evaluating the value of grass straw as a winter feed resource. More specifically, it will be evaluating several supplementation strategies for feeding pelleted grass straw. Two studies will be conducted. The first will be a digestion study to evaluate the effects on the rumen. It will utilize 20 ruminally cannulated steers and they will be assigned to one of five treatments; 1) pelleted grass straw, 2) pelleted grass straw plus once daily supplement, 3) pelleted grass straw plus twice daily supplement, 4) pelleted grass straw plus alternate day supplement, 5) pelleted grass straw/alfalfa mixture (75% straw/25% alfalfa mix). The second study will be a performance study evaluating the effects of the treatments on heifer performance. The first study will be completed by May 1, 1993, and the second study will be conducted in the winter of 1993-1994.

